Actual production : 4,04,040 units, of cars during the year 1996-97

(e) and (f) The quality including fuel efficiency of cars being produced in India is comparable to what it is in the developed countries as the technologies currently in use are contemporary.

Subsidy on KVIC products

*72. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR . BHATT: SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the subsidy @10% plus 20% being allowed on Khadi and Village Industry products has been discontinued from the next financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether this action on the part of Government is in consonance with the celebration of 50th Independence anniversary of the country; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to continue giving such rebate on the Khadi and Village Industries products as has been giving in the past?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY 'SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to ^J) The Government has been announcing the rebate(subsidy) policy from year to year on Khadi and Khadi related items. The rebate order for the year 1997-98 has been issued on 16.5.97 allowing normal rebate @10% upto 14.8.97 and a special rebate @15% from 15.8.97 to 14.8.98 on Khadi and Khadi related items. The special rebate has been announced due to the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence.

Target set up for 'BHEL vision 2001'

*73. DR. D. VEF7 VTESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the turnover target of BHEL vision 2001, the Bangalore based electronic units of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited;

(b) the policies of Government to give preference to the State owned BHEL in the electronic business in preference to other companies; and

(c) the steps taken to encourage porfit earning PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The BHEL vision 2001 is a qualitative statement broadly outlining the directions which the company has set for itself. However, the Bangalore based Electronics Unit of BHEL has set an objective to double its turnover by 2001 from the base level of Rs. 351 crores in 1996-97.

(b) No preference has been extended to BHEL in the development of its electronic business.

(c) Being a .major profit making PSU, BHEL has been declared as one of the 'Navratnas' to be encouraged to become a world player.

Financial assistance to SC, ST and Minority Communities of North-Eastern region

*74. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided to the people of North-East Region belonging to the SC, ST and Minority Community during each year of the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise and Community-wise;

(b) whether the Minority Development Finance Corporation is to work under the State SC/ST Development Finance Corporation; and

(c) if so, why the Minority . Development Finance Corporation is not constituted separately from the State SC/ ST Development Finance Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The amount of financial assistance provided to the people of North East Region belonging to SC, ST and Minority community during each year of the Eighth Five Year Plan is annexed. *(See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 16) Funds are released by the Ministry Scheme-wise/State-wise. No funds are released Community-wise.

(b) and (c) In none of the seven North Eastern States, the Minority Development Finance Corporation is working under State SC/ST development Finance Corporation. All the State Governments have been requested to incorporate Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and to nominate the same as Channelising Agency of National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation. However, it is the prerogative of State Governments to consider viability of separate Corporation for Minorities depending upon the population of Minorities, resources of the State etc. As on date, a separate Minorities Development and Finance Corporation is functioning in Tripura and similar agency is under incorporation in Assam.

Funds to strengthen research and development in CSIR

*75. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has drawn up a programme demanding more funds to strengthen R&D;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of scientific industrial research patented by CSIR during the last three years? '

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (PROF. YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir, CSIR has drawn up a programme to modernise and strengthen its R&D during the IX Five Year Plan period. It has submitted the proposal for the consideration of the Planning Commission. The IX Plan interalia seeks budgetary support of Rs. 250 crore for modernisation of its facilities and equipment and Rs. 360 crore for establishing new facilities with CSIR supplementing the budgetary grants through generation of extra budgetary resources. The Plan allocation for 1997-98 for Modernisation is Rs. 50 crores. In addition CSIR would be given matching grant equal to the incremental commercial rupee generated by it in 1996-97.

(b) The Planning Commission has yet to decide on the IX Five Year Plan allocations including those of CSIR.

(c) The number of patents filed by CSIR during the last three years is as under:—

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Indian patents filing	241	260	209
Foreig patents filing	29	58	70

Foodgrain worth Rs. 2500 crore missing from FCI Godowns

*76. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that foodgrain worth over Rs. 2500 crore have been found missing from the godowns of Food Corporation of India;